

Tobacco Free Workplaces in Indiana



Making your workplace smoke free will lower your business costs and produce a healthier workforce! The health of your employees is the major factor in your bottom line. Tobacco use among Hoosiers is a burden for Indiana and your business.

When employees smoke, they are not the only ones who pay. If all workplaces were to implement 100% tobacco free policies, the reduction in heart attack rates due to exposure to secondhand smoke would save the United States \$49 million in direct medical savings within the first year alone. Savings would increase over time.

Protect one of your most important assets - your employees' health. Eliminating tobacco use in the workplace projects a positive image to the public and demonstrates pride in your business and the products and services your company delivers.

Many of Indiana's large employers are tobacco free ii. What about you?

Of the top eleven (or six, depending on county population) largest employees from several counties in Indiana, 88% have completely tobacco free indoor work areas. However, under half (42%) of the employers surveyed have tobacco free grounds.

Benefits of a tobacco free workplace

- ❖ Improvement in employee and visitor health
- Lower absenteeism and increased productivity
- ❖ Employee support for non-smoking policies
- Reduced liability of claims
- Lower maintenance costs
- Lower insurance premiums

Helping employees quit tobacco use saves employers money!

Providing cessation services to employees through onsite employee assistance programs or through health plans can save businesses even more.

Less than half of Indiana's large employers provide cessation through their worksite (42%). Approximately 49% of employers surveyed offer benefits through employer-provided health plans.

¹ Ong MK, Glantz SA, "Cardiovascular health and economic effects of smoke-free workplaces," Am J Med 2004; 117:32-38.

ii Large Employer Survey (web-based) – completed by ITPC community and minority partners, March-April 2010. (Represents data from 63 counties and 555 employers.)